IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method for requesting information for an interactive program guide (IPG), wherein the IPG is provided via a plurality of IPG pages and each IPG page includes a plurality of defined regions, the method comprising:

receiving at a terminal a selection for a particular region of a particular IPG page;

determining whether the selected region is currently received at the terminal; and

if the selected region is not currently received at the terminal,

generating a request for the selected region, and

sending the request from the terminal to a server of an information distribution system.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected region is defined to be a guide region for a program listing if the a selected IPG page is not currently received at the terminal.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating includes

formatting the selected region and the selected IPG page in accordance with a particular message format to generate the request.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the message format includes a plurality of fields and has a hierarchical structure, and wherein a first field determines a particular format of remaining fields in the message format.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request includes

a first field indicative of the selected region which is chosen from among the plurality of defined regions in the IPG page.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the selected region is a guide region for a program listing, and wherein the request further includes

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a second field indicative of a particular filter selected from among a plurality of filters used to filter programs to be included in the program listing.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the plurality of filters include one or more filters selected from the group consisting of pay per view (PPV), favorites, movies, kids, and sports filters.

8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the request further includes

a third field indicative of the selected IPG page, which is chosen from among the plurality of IPG pages.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the third field includes

a fourth field indicative of a particular time slot selected from among a plurality of time slots, wherein the selected time slot corresponds to a time period covered by the selected IPG page.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the third field further includes

a fifth field indicative of a particular IPG page selected from among a plurality of IPG pages available for the selected time slot and corresponding to the selected IPG page.

11. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the selected region is a video region for a video.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the request further includes

a second field indicative of a particular type of video selected from among a plurality of video types.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request is sent from the terminal via an out-of-band network.

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14.   (original)   A method for requesting information from a server of an information distribution system, wherein the information is provided via a plurality of pages and each page includes a plurality of defined regions, the method comprising:

receiving at a terminal a selection for a particular region of a particular page;

determining whether the selected region is currently received at the terminal; and

if the selected region is not currently received at the terminal,

generating a request for the selected region, and

sending the request from the terminal to the server.

15.   (original)   The method of claim 14, wherein the information relates to an interactive program guide (IPG).

16.   (original)   A method for providing information for an interactive program guide (IPG), wherein the IPG is provided via a plurality of IPG pages and each IPG page includes a plurality of defined regions, the method comprising:

receiving at a server a request for a particular region of a particular IPG page;

assigning a packet identifier (PID) for the requested region; and

transmitting the requested region to a requesting terminal via the assigned PID.

17.   (original)   The method of claim 16, wherein the requested region is a guide region for a program listing.

18.   (original)   The method of claim 16, wherein the requested region is a video region for a video.

19.   (original)   In an information distribution system, a terminal operable to request and receive information for an interactive program guide (IPG), wherein the IPG is provided via a plurality of IPG pages and each IPG page includes a plurality of defined regions, the terminal comprising:

a controller configured to receive a selection for a particular region of a particular IPG page,

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determine whether the selected region is currently received at the terminal, and

if the selected region is not currently received at the terminal, generate a request for the selected region; and

a modulator coupled to the controller and configured to send the request to a server of the information distribution system.

20. (original) The terminal of claim 19, wherein the request includes a plurality of fields, and wherein one of the fields is used to specifically identify the selected region.

21. (original) A system operable to provide information for an interactive program guide (IPG), wherein the IPG is provided via a plurality of IPG pages and each IPG page includes a plurality of defined regions, the system comprising:

a session manager configured to receive a request for a particular region of a particular IPG page; and

a transport stream generator coupled to the session manager and configured to assign a packet identifier (PID) for the requested region and transmit the requested region to a requesting terminal via the assigned PID.

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